

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1

Before line 1 of the Specification please insert the following
new paragraph:

This nonprovisional application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) on Patent Application No. 2002-276321 filed in JAPAN on September 20, 2002, which is herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 22, as follows:

The present invention has been made with the aim of solving the above problems, and it is a feature~~principal~~ object thereof to provide an image forming apparatus capable of keeping stable orientation of a transfer unit while the image forming apparatus is in operation and capable of realizing stable contact/separation movement of the transfer unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 3, as follows:

Another ~~object~~feature of the present invention is to provide an image forming apparatus capable of transferring images carried on the respective image carriers precisely even when a change in the position of a transfer member with respect to an image carrier is caused by rotation of the image carrier, change in the type of a sheet used or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9, as follows:

Another ~~object~~feature of the present invention is to provide an image forming apparatus capable of realizing high accuracy in the positional relation between the rotary fulcrum and transfer members in either image transfer mode.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13, as follows:

Another ~~object~~feature of the present invention is to provide an image forming apparatus capable of switching rapidly between a monochrome image transfer mode, in which one transfer member closer to the center of rotary movement is

used for transfer, and a multicolor image transfer mode, in which all the transfer members are used for transfer, and thereby capable of realizing high image transfer efficiency.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20, as follows:

Still another ~~object~~feature of the present invention is to provide a transfer unit in which all the transfer members have elasticity so as to be movable to and from the respective image carriers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16, as follows:

The above and further ~~objects and~~ features of the invention will more fully be apparent from the following detailed description with accompanying drawings.